



English Martyrs School, St. Mark Street, London E1 8DJ
Tel: 0207 709 0182 Fax: 0207 680 9395
www.englishmartyrs.towerhamlets.sch.uk
Headteacher: Miss B Nugent

Monday 26th March 2021

Dear Parents,

I wish you all a warm welcome to the Summer Term. This is one of the most memorable moments in your child's life and it is my aim to make their final term at English Martyrs as special as possible. This promises to be a fun term bursting with practical sessions, independent learning, a focus on critical thinking and preparations for secondary school.

I am sure you are aware by now that with all the unforeseeable events, the Key Stage 2 Assessments which normally take place this term have been cancelled. Nevertheless, the focus remains to provide your child with the highest standard of education and ensure they are the best they can be for their new school. As we shift ever closer towards transition: we should expect to see a growth in self-discipline, maturity and motivation. Well-being and a strong sense of self-esteem will be central to this. Your child will know that a positive attitude will lead to greater success. They will be encouraged to talk about their feelings and develop good physical and emotional health. I make it my personal mission to help your child recognise their talents, strengths and work on their weaknesses to develop a hunger for learning and embed an ambitious outlook for their future. The ultimate aim is that your child will leave English Martyrs believing they can be true ambassadors of hard work, good friendships and care for their planet as they go on to be a beacon in their future schools.

Religion

Our first topic will be *The Transforming Spirit* in which we will explore the Apostles' Mission to the World, the Trinity, Incarnation and Ascension. Children will study Peter's life and the Persecuted Christians, but most importantly the children will learn about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they are essential for supporting us through life.

Our final topic in R.E is *Called To Serve*. This is a very meaningful topic for Year 6 leavers. It enables me to remind our children that God is our rock and our constant. We should place all our trust in Him. We will study The Sacrament of Confirmation and the Sacrament of the Sick as well as study inspiration people: Annalena Tonnelli, Sister Marianne Cope and Saint Gabriel Possenti. I will conclude this unit by encouraging the

children to recognise how they can serve God and their community and follow in the footsteps of Jesus to make our world a better and more loving place.

Reading every day

Please ensure your child reads every day. The Government continues to make reading its focus as it is seen as the key to success in all other areas of the curriculum. Please remind your child that reading for pleasure can boost well-being and is a great way to relax. Kindly ensure reading records are regularly checked.

Homework Diaries

Please make a note of the A5 lime green notebook in your child's bag which is used to record homework and due dates. Please sign the diary when your child has completed their work. The diary can also be used to communicate with me about your child's work.

Spellings

Your child has their spelling booklet and will be tested on a new set of words every week. Additionally, your child must find the meanings of the words and put them in sentences. Please ensure this task is undertaken diligently. We are always promoting a strong vocabulary.

Debating

Year 6 are learning the rules of debating in the format of the Cambridge Union. The children who wish to develop their skills further, are being offered a place in the Debating Club every Tuesday lunchtime.

R.S.E

In Relationship, Sex and Education, we will study puberty, menstruation and how babies are made. We will use the Catholic Scheme of Work - *Journey in Love* to support this learning. In this unit of work, we will discuss issues around self-respect and dignity. Children will learn that relationships should be based on respect and love. I will send a more detailed outline of the programme in due course.

Mathletics

Activities will be set every week. These must be completed. Having analysed the spring test results, there is a direct correlation between pupils who complete their mathletics and those who are well on track to achieving expected and above standards.

Mathematics

Measurement:

- ❖ Measure with a protractor
- ❖ Draw lines and angles accurately
- ❖ Introduce angles on a straight line and angles around a point
- ❖ Calculate angles - vertically opposite angles and missing angles in a triangle
- ❖ Angles in special quadrilaterals and angles in regular polygons

- ❖ Draw shapes accurately and draw nets of 3-D shapes
- ❖ Recognise that shapes with same areas can have different perimeters and vice versa
- ❖ Recognise formulae for shape and volume
- ❖ Calculate, estimate and compare volume of cubes using standard units
- ❖ Illustrate and name parts of circles, including radius, diameter and circumference and know the diameter is twice the radius

Algebra:

- ❖ Use simple formulae
- ❖ Generate and describe linear number sequences
- ❖ Express missing number problems algebraically
- ❖ Find pairs of numbers that satisfy an equation with two unknowns

Ratio and Proportion:

- ❖ Solve problems involving the relative sizes of two quantities where missing values can be found
- ❖ Use ratio language, ratio and fractions and introduce the ratio symbol
- ❖ Calculate ratio and use scale factors
- ❖ Solve ratio and proportion problems

Statistics:

- ❖ Interpret and construct pie charts and line graphs and use these to solve problems
- ❖ Calculate the mean as an average and know mode and median
- ❖ Solve problems involving statistics

English

In the first half of the summer term, we will study a book set in South America - Ada's Violin is a true story about the street children of Paraguay who make musical instruments from rubbish they find in landfills. We will use this story to inspire us to become stewards of the Earth. We will write diary extracts, newspaper articles, persuasive texts and explanation texts based on the perspective of the characters.

In the final half of the term, we will study William Shakespeare's Macbeth. This will introduce Year 6 to his themes, vocabulary and characters. This unit of work aims to make Shakespeare accessible to all our children and develop an interest and knowledge in his style of writing. We will study his life and learn about what inspired him. The overall objective is to promote confidence and a sense of familiarity so that when children study Shakespeare in secondary school, they are ready to take their learning to a higher level.

Science

Working Scientifically:

Children will be taught to use the following practical scientific methods, processes and skills through the teaching of the programme of study content:

- 1) Planning different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary
- 2) Taking measurements, using a range of scientific equipment, with increasing accuracy and precision
- 3) Recording data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, and bar and line graphs
- 4) Using test results to make predictions to set up further comparative and fair tests
- 5) Using simple models to describe scientific ideas
- 6) Reporting and presenting findings from enquiries, including conclusions, causal relationships and explanations of results, in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations
- 7) Identifying scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments.

Science topic - Light

- ❖ Pupils will build on their work on light from Year 3, exploring the way that light behaves, including light sources, reflection and shadows. They should talk about what happens and make predictions. Pupils might work scientifically by: deciding where to place rear-view mirrors on cars; designing and making a periscope and using the idea that light appears to travel in straight lines to explain how it works. They might investigate the relationship between light sources, objects and shadows by using shadow puppets. They could extend their experience of light by looking at a range of phenomena including rainbows, colours on soap bubbles, objects looking bent in water and coloured filters (they do not need to explain why these phenomena occur)
- ❖ Recognise that light appears to travel in straight lines
- ❖ Use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain that objects are seen because they give out or reflect light into the eye
- ❖ Explain that we see things because light travels from light sources to our eyes or from light sources to objects and then to our eyes
- ❖ Use the idea that light travels in straight lines to explain why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.

Science topic - Electricity

- ❖ Pupils will build on their work on electricity from Year 4 when they identified items that run on electricity such as laptops, mobile phones, televisions, etc.
- ❖ Children will recall how to construct a simple series circuit

- ❖ They will learn about electrical safety
- ❖ They will identify some conductors and insulators
- ❖ Children will understand that a switch opens and closes a circuit
- ❖ In the classroom, children will explore electricity by using batteries (cells that make electricity), wires (often with crocodile clips so they are easy to attach), bulbs, switches (they turn circuits on and off, stopping the electrical current from flowing) and buzzers to create simple series circuits. They may investigate how to make the bulb brighter or buzzer louder by adding more batteries or if the bulbs dim when more bulbs are added
- ❖ They will learn about voltage and currents and learn to draw electrical circuits using symbols

Art and D.T

This will be an exciting term of studying artists related to our topics. Year 6 will study the work of M.C Escher and S.Dali and draw comparisons with contemporary artist Banksy, all who wish for their audience 'to see' deeper into their work.

Children will plan, design and construct musical instruments from household items to understand the work of the children of the Paraguay Orchestra. Year 6 will also research innovative designers working to conserve energy in the form of light.

In the second half of summer, Year 6 will plan, design and construct slippers to make a real life product using a range of materials. This is an exciting project which enables creative flair to come to life.

P.E

This term children will do tennis, ball skills and athletics.

Geography - A Study of South America

- ❖ Study environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities in South America
- ❖ Name and locate cities and geographical regions and their human and physical characteristics and also, key topographical features such as mountains and rivers
- ❖ Identify position and significant latitude, longitude, Equator, and hemispheres, know Tropic of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle
- ❖ Describe aspects of physical geography such as climate zones, volcanoes and water cycle
- ❖ Know aspects of Human geography such as types of settlement, land use, economic activity
- ❖ Use maps and atlases to locate countries and regions
- ❖ Use eight points of a compass and six-figure grid references, symbols and keys of Ordnance Survey maps.

Please note there will be a South American Day in the week beginning 24th May to celebrate all our learning and share food, music and dance from the continent.

The homework timetable for summer term is as follows:

Monday - Maths due in the next day

Wednesday - Comprehension due following Tuesday

Thursday - English due in the next day

Friday - Mathematics due in the following Friday and Science or Humanities or R.E homework due in for Monday

Please note, weekday homework should take no longer than 30 minutes.

If there are any problems regarding homework, please use the homework diary or telephone school to let me know.

All that remains is to give thanks to God. Please join me in prayer for our children.

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you so much for our precious children. We know they mean so much to you. We pray you will help us do all we can to protect and give them the start in life they deserve. Heavenly Father, thank you for all the gifts which come from you. We thank you as we trust you for the future of our children. Please guide them in every step they take. We pray they know your provision and protection. Make steady their steps.

We thank you for the gift of knowledge and praise you that you provide our children with abilities to think and question the world around us. Help them to learn well and flourish in their final days of primary school. May they discover their unique talents and gifts. Give them a passion for the world around them as they prepare to make their mark in the wider world. Bless them always.

Amen

Thank you for all your support. Your continued cooperation remains invaluable.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Pasha